

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS -

Claims 1-10, 12-15 and 25-41 are presently pending in this application. Claims 11 and 16-24 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 25-41 are new. Claim 25 is a new method claims which is supported at least by paragraph [0055]. Claim 26 is a new method claim that covers an embodiment that was previously listed as a limitation of claim 1. Claims 27-42 are claims directed to an optical connector assembly that correspond to the previous method claims.

Claims 1-3, 5-10, and 12-15 are amended to correct errors unrelated to novelty or obviousness or to broaden them.

No new matter is added by the present amendments.

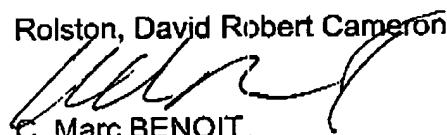
The Office Action states that claims 1-15 (Group I) and claims 16-24 (Group II) are directed to distinct inventions. The Applicant hereby elects claim Group I and amends the claims accordingly.

The Application should now be in condition for allowance and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Serial No. 10/625,905
Response to Office Action of Oct. 4, 2005

Agent's Ref. 16005-1US
Amdt. dated Jan. 4, 2006

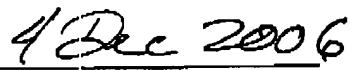
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